IN THE CLAIMS

For the convenience of the Examiner, all pending claims of the present Application are shown below in numerical order whether or not an amendment has been made and applying the revised amendment practice of 37 CFR 1.121 – IFW Final Rule.

1. **(Previously Presented)** A method for prioritized access to a messaging system, comprising:

receiving, at an access controller for a messaging system, a request by a user of the messaging system to be connected with the messaging system;

determining whether the messaging system is available;

if the messaging system is available, establishing a telecommunications connection between the user and the messaging system; and

if the messaging system is not available:

queuing the request; and

maintaining a telecommunications connection between the access controller and the user while the request is queued.

2. **(Original)** The method of Claim 1, further comprising immediately connecting the user with the messaging system if the messaging system is initially available.

3. **(Original)** The method of Claim 1, further comprising:

determining a class of service (CoS) for the connection; and

queuing the request based on the CoS.

4. **(Previously Presented)** The method of Claim 3, wherein the CoS includes a priority associated with the user.

5. **(Previously Presented)** The method of Claim 4, wherein the priority associated with the user is established according to an identification number of the user.

6. **(Previously Presented)** The method of Claim 5, further comprising:

determining a telephone number of the user, at the access controller; and

wherein the identification number corresponds to the telephone number of the user.

7. **(Previously Presented)** The method of Claim 3, wherein the CoS includes a priority associated with a called party.

8. **(Previously Presented)** The method of Claim 7, wherein the priority associated with the called party is established according to a telephone number of the called party.

9. **(Previously Presented)** The method of Claim 3, wherein the CoS includes a priority associated with a type of the request for connection.

10. **(Original)** The method of Claim 9, wherein the type of the request for connection is selected from the group consisting of an internal network request to review a message, an internal network request to leave a message, an external network request to review a message and an external network request to leave a message.

11. **(Original)** The method of Claim 1, further comprising queuing the request based on a time at which the request for connection is received.

12. **(Original)** The method of Claim 1, wherein the messaging system comprises a voicemail system.

13. **(Original)** The method of Claim 1, further comprising connecting the user to the messaging system when the messaging system becomes available and the request is at a primary position in a queue of the access controller.

14. **(Previously Presented)** An access controller for a messaging system, comprising:

means for receiving, at an access controller for a messaging system, a request by a user of the messaging system to be connected with the messaging system;

means for determining whether the messaging system is available;

means for establishing a telecommunications connection between the user and the messaging system, if the messaging system is initially available; and

means for queuing the request at the access controller and maintaining a telecommunications connection between the user and the access controller, if the messaging system is not available.

15. **(Original)** The access controller of Claim 14, further comprising means for immediately connecting the user with the messaging system if the messaging system is initially available.

16. **(Original)** The access controller of Claim 14, further comprising:

means for determining a class of service (CoS) for the connection; and

means for queuing the request based on the CoS.

17. **(Previously Presented)** The access controller of Claim 16, wherein the CoS includes a priority associated with the user.

18. **(Previously Presented)** The access controller of Claim 17, wherein the priority associated with the user is established according to an identification number of the user.

19. **(Previously Presented)** The access controller of Claim 18, further comprising:

means for determining a telephone number of the user; and

wherein the identification number corresponds to the telephone number of the user.

20. **(Previously Presented)** The access controller of Claim 16, wherein the CoS includes a priority associated with a called party.

21. **(Previously Presented)** The access controller of Claim 20, wherein the priority associated with the called party is established according to a telephone number of the called party.

22. **(Previously Presented)** The access controller of Claim 16, wherein the CoS includes a priority associated with a type of the request for connection.

23. **(Original)** The access controller of Claim 22, wherein the type of the request for connection is selected from the group consisting of an internal network request to review a message, an internal network request to leave a message, an external network request to review a message and an external network request to leave a message.

24. **(Original)** The access controller of Claim 14, further comprising means for queuing the request based on a time at which the request for connection is received.

25. **(Original)** The access controller of Claim 14, wherein the messaging system comprises a voicemail system.

26. **(Original)** The access controller of Claim 14, further comprising means for connecting the user to the messaging system when the messaging system becomes available and the request is at a primary position in a queue of the access controller.

27. **(Previously Presented)** A system for prioritized access to a messaging system, comprising:

logic encoded in media; and

the logic operable to:

receive a request for connection by a user to a messaging system;

determine whether the messaging system is available; and

queue the request and maintain a telecommunications connection with the user while the request is queued, if the messaging system is not available; and

establish a telecommunications connection between the user and the messaging system, if the messaging system is initially available.

28. **(Original)** The system of Claim 27, the logic further operable to immediately connect the user with the messaging system if the messaging system is initially available.

29. **(Original)** The system of Claim 27, the logic further operable to determine a class of service (CoS) for the connection and to queue the request based on the CoS.

30. **(Previously Presented)** The system of Claim 29, wherein the CoS includes a priority associated with the user.

31. **(Previously Presented)** The system of Claim 30, wherein the priority associated with the user is established according to an identification number of the user.

32. **(Original)** The system of Claim 31, the logic further operable to determine a telephone number of the user, wherein the identification number corresponds to the telephone number of the user.

33. **(Previously Presented)** The system of Claim 29, wherein the CoS includes a priority associated with a called party.

34. **(Previously Presented)** The system of Claim 33, wherein the priority associated with the called party is established according to a telephone number of the called party.

35. **(Previously Presented)** The system of Claim 29, wherein the CoS includes a priority associated with a type of the request for connection.

36. **(Original)** The system of Claim 35, wherein the type of the request for connection is selected from the group consisting of an internal network request to review a message, an internal network request to leave a message, an external network request to review a message and an external network request to leave a message.

37. **(Original)** The system of Claim 27, the logic further operable to queue the request based on a time at which the request for connection is received.

38. **(Original)** The system of Claim 27, wherein the messaging system comprises a voicemail system.

39. **(Original)** The system of Claim 27, the logic further operable to connect the user to the messaging system when the messaging system becomes available and the request is at a primary position in a queue of the access controller.

40. **(Previously Presented)** A method for prioritized access to a messaging system, comprising:

receiving at an access controller remote from a messaging system a request for connection by a user to the messaging system;

determining at the access controller whether ports of the messaging system are available;

queuing the request at the access controller if a port of the messaging system is not available;

authenticating the user for access to the messaging system while the request is queued; and

establishing a telecommunications connection between the user and the messaging system when a port of the messaging system becomes available and the request is at a primary position in a queue of the access controller.

41. **(Original)** The method of Claim 40, further comprising queuing the request based on a class of service (CoS) for the connection.

42. **(Original)** The method of Claim 40, further comprising transferring a login token generated by authentication from the access controller to the messaging system.